

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/555,945

2489-1-001

19. A printing device according to claim 11, having a printing quality higher than 200 ppp.

20. A printing device according to claim 12, wherein the printing modules are arranged in parallel and with a degree of nonalignment.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-9 have been amended; support for the changes to claim 1 is found at least in originally filed claims 1 and 5.

(1) Claims 10-20 have been added; support for these claims is found in the specification at least at page 1, lines 15-17 and page 3, lines 31-35.

(2) Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the changes made to claims 1-9 now overcomes this ground of rejection.

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(3) Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gruner et al. (U.S. 6,273,548 hereafter "Gruner") in view of Koitabashi (U.S. 6,224,181). It is respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection is overcome for the reasons indicated below.

Gruner has a U.S. filing date of March 12, 1999, and Koitabashi has a U.S. filing date of October 22, 1998. However, the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 from application number 9802136, filed in Spain on October 14, 1998.

As noted in the Office Action, a verified translation is required to perfect priority in the face of the cited references. Applicants have attached herewith, a verified translation signed by the declarant. It should be duly noted that the verified translation is the same as the filed U.S. application, as the declarant translated the Spanish application into English for filing. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are overcome.

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For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone communication, he is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 27, 2002

SG\lc

Attorney Docket No. 2489-1-001

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Enclosures - Marked-up Version of Changes Made
Three-Month Extension of Time
Perfection of the Claim for Priority-Verified
Translation



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Jose Vicente Tomas Claramonte
SERIAL NO.: 09/555,945 EXAMINER: J. Huffman
FILED: June 6, 2000 ART UNIT: 2854
FOR: DEVICE FOR DECORATION OF CERAMIC TILES

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2001,
following are the marked-up changes:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 9 have been amended as follows:

1. [-] A [Device] device for [decoration] decorating [of]
ceramic tiles, the device comprising
[that has means for conveyance of tiles in whose trajectory]
projection means for [projection] projecting [of] ink on [the] each
tile in order to print [the] a [desired motif] pattern on the tile
[are arranged], said tile arranged on a conveyor means for
conveyance in accordance with a trajectory;

[and is characterized in that it has] at least one printing head
[(3) that is constituted by] respectively comprising at least two
[independent] printing modules [(5)] that are connected to a control
unit [(13) that controls the], each of the printing modules being
arranged to project ink on the tile in accordance with a marking
width corresponding to a portion of a tile width;

wherein

operation of each printing module is independently controlled by the
control unit [in order to print the desired motif.],
each printing module comprises an independent microprocessor and an
independent memory, and
each printing module is an extractable module comprising connecting
means for individual connection to the printing head.

2.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the
[independent] printing modules [(5)] are [situated] arranged
obliquely with respect to the trajectory of the tile[s, and all] in
such a way that the marking [band] width of each [one of said]
printing module[s (5) is] extends to the marking width of at least
one adjacent printing module [located after the ones].

3.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the
[independent] printing modules [(5)] are [located] arranged in
succession [one after another and/or parallel with a certain
unalignment].

4.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the marking
widths of the printing modules [(5) occupy] cover at least the
[entire] tile width [of the tile].

5.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the
microprocessor and the memory comprised in each [independent]
printing module [(5) is constituted by a microprocessor (10) and the
corresponding memory (11) in order to operate independently under
the control of the] are connected to the control unit [(13)] by
means of a control circuit arranged in said each printing module.

6.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim [3]1, [characterized in that] wherein said at
least one printing head comprises a plurality of serially-arranged
printing heads, and wherein the printing modules of the plurality of
printing heads are arranged [a number of heads (3) in series is
arranged, so that the different printing modules (5) that constitute
them occupy] such that the marking widths thereof cover at least the
entire tile width [of the tile (2)].

7.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [3 or 5, characterized in that] comprising at
least as many parallely-arranged printing heads [(3) in parallel are
arranged] as printing colors are required [in order] to print the
[desired motif] pattern.

8.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the control
unit [(13) has] comprises communication means [(15) in order to
permit the] for [connection] connecting with other computers and to
allow [the] remote management and verification of the device.

9.[-] [Device] A device [for decoration of ceramic tiles,]
according to claim 1, [characterized in that it has a superior]
having a printing quality higher than 200 ppp.